

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the following remarks is requested. Claims 1, 8, 11, 13, and 15 have been amended; claims 3, 10, and 14 have been cancelled. Existing claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-13, and 15-18 remain in the application.

ARGUMENT

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12, 13, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kleinsorge, et al. (US Patent No. 6,247, 109) (hereinafter Kleinsorge).

The Applicant believes that the Examiner made incorrect rejections to these claims. However, the applicant chooses to amend independent claims 1, 8, and 13 to incorporate allowable subject matter in original claims 3, 10, and 14, respectively. Original claims 3, 10, and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 11 and 15 has been amended to depend from independent claims 8 and 13, respectively. Independent claims 1, 8, and 13 are now allowable. Because these independent claims are allowable, all other claims dependent therefrom are also allowable (i.e., existing claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-12, and 15-18). The 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections over existing claims as amended are now moot and must be withdrawn.

The Applicant reserves the right to prosecute originally filed claims in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-13, and 15-18 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-8074. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/Steven P. Skabrat/
Senior Attorney
Intel Corporation
Registration No. 36,279
(503) 264-8074

c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026

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